

Parker has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Parker has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Parker Christian for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

DUNCAN HUNTER NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

The House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5658) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2009, and for other purposes:

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Chairman, Chairman SKELTON and Ranking Republican HUNTER, I rise in support of my Amendment to H.R. 5658, the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act of 2009 which has been included as part of an en bloc amendment. My Amendment requires the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study to identify the mental health risks associated with the performance of individual military duties. This assessment will recognize cases of suicide by military occupation, and identify military occupations with a high incidence of suicide. More importantly the study shall suggest additional suicide prevention programs specific to military occupations with higher risk.

To my knowledge, the issue of differing suicide risks amongst military occupations has not been studied in any great depth. Colonel Michael Bartley of Nellis Air Force Base and Colonel Chris Chambliss of Creech Air Force Base have highlighted for me the unique mental health challenges that members of our military face who are on the front lines of the Global War on Terror, but located here in the States. The State of Nevada is home to Creech Air Force Base which serves as the premier host for MQ-1 Predators and MQ-9 Reapers Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs).

The operator of a UAV fleet is truly at the forefront of the Global War on Terror. I am greatly concerned that some military occupations, such as UAV operators, may suffer from chronic mental health disorders such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) due to stress and fatigue. I feel these soldiers may not receive the same level of emotional support from their peers that they would receive if they were located overseas. Rather, they return to their families and civilian society without the appropriate outlet for dealing with the emotional tolls of their duties.

It is my hope that the Secretary of Defense will continue to address the pressing matter of the mental health strains inflicted upon our active duty service men and women. This study will help us begin to understand how the new technologies that allow us to wage wars more

effectively, bring about unforeseen complications for the service men and women who volunteer to serve our Nation. I encourage my colleagues to support this common sense amendment that will provide the mental health services needed by the 21st Century war fighter.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2008

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 353 I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 353. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CONGRATULATING ARCADIA UNIVERSITY ON THE OCCASION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2008

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Arcadia University on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of its successful Study Abroad Program.

In the summer of 1948, Jack Wallace, a newly hired economics instructor, and his wife, Betty Jean set sail from New York with 17 Beaver College (now Arcadia University) students, hoping to study the economic effects of World War II and the post-war rebuilding efforts in Europe. They arrived in Southampton and purchased used Royal Air Force surplus bicycles. After traveling around England, they crossed the Channel and continued biking through Belgium and France, ending their eight-week sojourn in Paris. Such faculty-led summer study voyages to Europe continued for several years.

In the 1960s, the university began offering access to its study abroad programs during the regular semester at City of London College to students from other colleges. "Full credit for work done in England was readily accepted by Beaver College for each participant," notes the University history, "and an institution was born—the Beaver College Center for Education Abroad." Accredited accounting for course credits remains a cornerstone of Arcadia's Center for Education Abroad today, along with a worldwide network of professional employees, including in-country staff in host countries that support students while they are abroad.

This year, Jerry Greiner, Arcadia's President, will commemorate that landmark trip's 60th Anniversary in July 2008. In addition, the University will introduce a new curriculum that emphasizes multi-cultural experience and reflection. In addition to the hundreds of Arcadia students who study abroad each year, the Center now serves 3,000 students a year from more than 300 colleges and universities. And what began at City of London College is now a menu of more than 100 programs around the world, expanding recently to Africa, to China and soon to India.

I commend Arcadia University for providing opportunities for young leaders to learn about the world and connect with students in other countries and I congratulate the University on reaching the 60th anniversary of its nationally acclaimed international program.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT PRINCEY GEORGE PINDER

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2008

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor an American soldier who served 1 year in Iraq at Camps Ramadi and Fallujah while on a mission to look for roadside bombs. Army SSG Princey George Pinder's unit was hit four times, and miraculously they all survived the impact.

Born in Nassau, Bahamas, SSG Pinder is the fifth child born to Viola Pinder and Frank Greene. He graduated from A.F. Adderley High School and went on to be enlisted in the Royal Bahamas Police force in 1983, where he received an honorable discharge in 1994. He continued his higher education and received an associate degree from Miami Dade College, bachelor's degree in Christian education and is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Florida International University. He holds various leadership training certificates from the U.S. Army as a combat engineer.

For over 18 years SSG Pinder has served as the co-founder and senior pastor of Baruch Christian Fellowship Ministries, Inc. in Miami-Dade County. He has also served as vice-president director of a juvenile delinquency and ex-offender mentorship program named Destiny Image Review Network for 14 years, as well as co-founder of Baruch Leadership Training Academy.

SSG Pinder enlisted in the Army in January 1997, and was deployed to Iraq in March 2003. His second deployment took place in May 2007. SSG Pinder currently serves as a reservist army staff sergeant in Camps Ramadi and Fallujah, Iraq with the 841st Charlie Company from Perrine, Florida. Upon return he will continue his employment as a motor compliance officer with the Florida Department of Transportation.

Madam Speaker, SSG Princey George Pinder represents the best our Nation has to offer. He volunteered to serve our Nation in uniform and to protect our freedom and liberty. For this, his family, friends and loved ones know that this Congress will always remember his bravery and commitment in battle.

TRIBUTE TO SUMMIT FIRE VICTIMS

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2008

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my condolences to those affected by the Summit Fire in the Santa Cruz Mountains on the Santa Clara/Santa Cruz County line, which thankfully has not claimed lives,